



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ANDREA C. HARRISON, Chair
Council Member - District 5

MAR 22 2012

The Hon. Douglas J.J. Peters, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Melony G. Griffith, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Bill Position – SB 892/HB 1265 - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Peters & Delegate Griffith:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on Senate Bill 892 and House Bill 1265, cross-filed legislation under consideration by the Maryland General Assembly, to authorize an additional gaming location in Prince George's County for the 2012 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 20, 2012 and voted to oppose SB 892/HB 1165 as originally drafted.

The Prince George's County Council adopted CR-83-2011 last year and believes that the decision should rest in the hands of Prince George's County voters and that any legislation authorizing a state referendum on gaming should include a constitutionally permissible provision that requires majority approval of expanded gaming by Prince George's County voters.

As you are aware, a divided County Council narrowly voted to support a referendum questions to voters last fall on expanded gaming in Prince George's County. The Council is divided on the gaming issue. This letter reflects the position that if gaming proceeds, the County Council requests that the following amendments must be included to the current gaming legislation:

- The gaming legislation should not tie the construction of a new medical facility in Prince George's County to the enactment of the gaming legislation or the expansion of gaming in the County;

County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
Phone: 301-952-3864 Fax: 301-952-5885

- The Council opposes increasing the percentage share for facility licensee from 33% to 40% as proposed in the bills as it reduces the amount of funding to the State Education Trust Fund;
- The annual local impact grant percentage should apply to *both* video lottery terminal (VLT) and any table gaming revenue;
- That the Prince George's facility local impact grant should be at least 8%, of which:
 - 4.5% shall be utilized in prekindergarten education, public safety, youth employment and training programs, housing stabilization funding, and grants to human service nonprofits;
 - 3.5% shall be utilized in public infrastructure and economic redevelopment within a 5-mile radius of the gaming site for the first five (5) years of opening of the Prince George's facility and within a 10-mile radius thereafter the 5th year;
- That 1.5% to be fully dedicated towards a fund for increasing local minority business capacity in Prince George's County instead of dedicated to the Small, Minority and Women-Owned Businesses Account;
- The initial VLT license fee, estimated to be \$28.5 million for 4,750 VLTs, should be invested in public infrastructure and economic redevelopment within a 5 mile radius of the gaming site; and
- The gaming legislation should include:
 - An annual goal that 50% of the work hours at all phases of construction and operation of the gaming facility be done by Prince George's County residents;
 - To strongly encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) consistent CB-16-2011 adopted by the County Council in an effort to hire more Prince Georgians in the construction of a gaming facility;
 - A minimum requirement that 30% of annual procurement dollars be spent with local business enterprises (LBEs) in Prince George's County at all phases of construction and operation of the gaming facility, including;

- A goal that at least 20% of annual procurement dollars be spent with local minority business enterprises (LMBEs) in Prince George's County at all phases of construction and operation of the gaming facility; and
- Annual reporting requirements for the gaming operator with authorization for penalties or license suspension for noncompliance.

The Prince George's County Council also supports that any Prince George's County facility must comply with applicable County Zoning Code requirements as part of a local approval process.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3864. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,



Andrea C. Harrison
Chair

cc: Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive
Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget & Tax Committee
Hon. Sheila Hixson, Chair, House Ways & Means Committee
Hon. Barbara Frush, Delegate, District 21
Ms. Lisa L. Jackson, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs